The Member then examined how the administration of justice was carried on in respect of excise cases. He said that it was disastrous that, while even in regard to police charges the percentage of conviction was only 32, the percentage was 95 in respect of excise cases charged before the magistracy. In Alleppey and Devikulam, all the cases charged ended in conviction. In the opinion of the Member, justice was blindly and arbitrarily administered in so far as excise cases were concerned and it was high time that the Government started an enquiry into that important matter.

In conclusion, the Member requested that, so far as the Excise administration was concerned, it was desirable to take action on the following lines :—

(1) Toddy arrack should be sold in preference to jaggery arrack.

(2) The price of liquor should be enhanced so as to discourage drinking.

(3) Distilleries should be established in all taluks where the manufacture of arrack was carried on and the contract for the supply of toddy arrack given to the people of the State.

(4) Greater facilities should be afforded for the manufacture of jaggery,

(5) The import of foreign liquor should be discouraged by raising the duty thereon.

(6) Stringent instructions should be issued to the Magistracy to ensure the same even-handed justice being meted out to the public in excise cases as in other cases.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's representations will be referred to the Excise Commissioner for report.

15. The inconvenience caused to the inhabitants of the southern group of pakuthies of the Quilon taluk owing to the absence of a fish-curing yard.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi, B. A., B. L. (Member, Quilon taluk) said that, during three months of the year, namely, from Edavom to Karkadagom, much inconvenience was caused to the inhabitants on the Quilon sea-coast from the foul smell emanating from fish indiscriminately dried by the fishermen. Right along the sea-coast from Quilon to Paravur, the process was conducted on a very large scale. In spite of their best efforts, the Quilon T. I. C. were not able to do much towards minimising the nuisance and danger to public health. He therefore prayed for the establishment of a regular fish-curing yard at Tangacherry, Quilon or any other suitable place in the taluk. The Member said that he was aware that a yard was lately opened at Muttam and that it was reported to be not very popular. In his view, that was due to the unsuitability of the locality selected for the experiment, and he felt sure that a yard, if opened in the Quilon taluk, was bound to be a success. He therefore requested that the matter might receive the early consideration of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—The operations of the fish-curing yard at Muttam will be watched before other yards are opened.

16. The necessity for certain amendments in the Tobacco Rules.

Mr. Kora Kochu Korula (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) observed that, under the Tobacco Rules dated the 5th July 1913, the wholesale vend of tobacco was prohibited in certain taluks of the State except under a license, a licensed retail vendor should not have in stock more than 10 lbs. of tobacco at a time, and certain officers of the Excise Department were competent to issue free licenses for the retail vend of tobacco. The Member suggested that the prohibition in regard to the wholesale vend of tobacco without license should be extended to all parts of the State. The restriction that a licensed retail vendor should not have in stock more than 10 lbs. of tobacco at a time would, in his opinion, give rise to foul play and corruption both on the part of the vendors as well as the subordinate officers of the department. He

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